requested by MCL to close down all licensed coal depots (Licenses issued by the State Government authorities) near mines/pit heads. The existence of such coal depots near mines/pit heads is the main cause of pilferage of coal. No license is now being issued to coal depots within a radius of 45 kilometers of the coal mines.

(ii) Coordination is being done by MCL with the civil authorities including police. A strategy is being formulated to prevent theft/ pilferage of coal. Extensive mobile patrolling by the security personnel of MCL as well as by the police is being carried out regularly.

Fire accident in Moira Colliery of ECL

1088. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item regarding Fire accident in Moira Colliery, under ECL, West Bengal appearing in 'Ganashakti' dated the 12th July, 2000;

(b) If so, the action taken by Government to restore the situation; and

(c) the expected loss due to that accident?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Fire area has been sealed off on 17.7.2000 and production has been restored from 18.7,2000.

(c) Expected loss due to the accident is Rs. 32.50 lakhs.

Coal Production Capacity of Mines

1089. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the coal production capacity of various coal mines and the actual production therein during the last three years; and

(b) what steps are being taken by Government to increase existing production of coal in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) Details of production capacity and actual production in the subsidiaries of CIL during the last three years are given below:

(Figures in Million tonnes)

Company	1997-98		1998-99		1999-2000	
	Capacity I	Actual Production	Capacity	Actual Production	Capacity	Actual Production
ECL	38.21	27.42	36.49	27.16	35.39	25.12
BCCL	37.87	30.92	45.52	27.17	39.95	28.01
CCL	42.10	33.08	41.45	32.17	40.25	32.40
NCL	36.39	37.12	36.98	36.52	35.49	38.43
WCL	30.84	32.52	32.93	31.75	33.02	33.86
SECL	57.48	56.63	61.89	57.56	62.19	58.75
MCL	39.63	42.17	40.95	43.51	49.08	43.55
NEC	0.89	0.69	0.93	0.64	0.84	0.57
CIL Total	283.41	260.55	297.14	256.48	296.21	260.69

(b) Increase in capacity utilisation in existing mines, timely completion of on-going projects and speedy implementation of new projects are the main thrust areas for increasing coal production. Necessary funds are also tied up to increase coal productions.

Problem of subsidence in Asansol-RanlganJ mines

1090. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the severe problem of subsidence in the Asansol-Raniganj mine areas under E£L posing a grave threat to the life and livelihood of a number of villagers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Chief Minister of West Bengal has written to Government about this problem and urged for immediate intervention and support for addressing the problem; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI N. T. SHANMUGAM): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The